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BRATER: TIME TO STOP TRASHING MICHIGAN

LANSING--State Sen. Liz Brater (D-Ann Arbor) today presented major amendments to the GOP-sponsored trash bill, House Bill 5176, that was taken up today in full Senate session. The Republican-controlled Senate defeated the amendments which would have helped stem the flow of Canadian trash into Michigan.

"The amendments I offered today were an attempt to turn a bill that's simply window dressing into action-oriented public policy," said Sen. Brater. "This is a real problem, and we need a real solution."

Following Brater's statement, Republicans responded with inaccurate claims that her amendments would create a financial burden for municipalities. In reality, one of the amendments presented by Brater would actually create a revenue stream for municipalities to help them create and expand recycling programs and help reduce Canadian trash dumping in our state.

Brater's amendments reflect Senate Democrats' ongoing efforts to enact legislation that would give Michigan the authority to restrict trash inflow. The amendments would have raised the surcharge for bringing trash into the state of Michigan and extended the moratorium on landfill expansion.

"I don't think anyone wants Michigan to be a magnet for trash," said Brater. "But, as things stand, we're a cheap place to dump because we have too much landfill capacity. We have the ability at the state level to reduce out-of-state trash, and it's time to take real action to do so."

State Senator Brater represents Senate District 18 which includes the cities of Ann Arbor, Ypsilanti, and Chelsea, the Villages of Barton Hills and Dexter, and the following townships: Ann Arbor, Augusta, Dexter, Freedom, Lima, Lyndon, Northfield, Salem, Scio, Sharon, Superior, Sylvan, Webster and Ypsilanti. She is the minority vice chair of the natural Resources and Environmental Affairs Committee and the Agriculture, Forestry, and Tourism Committee.